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FOR RELEASE
MAR. 17, A. M.
1954

The POULTRY and EGG SITUATION

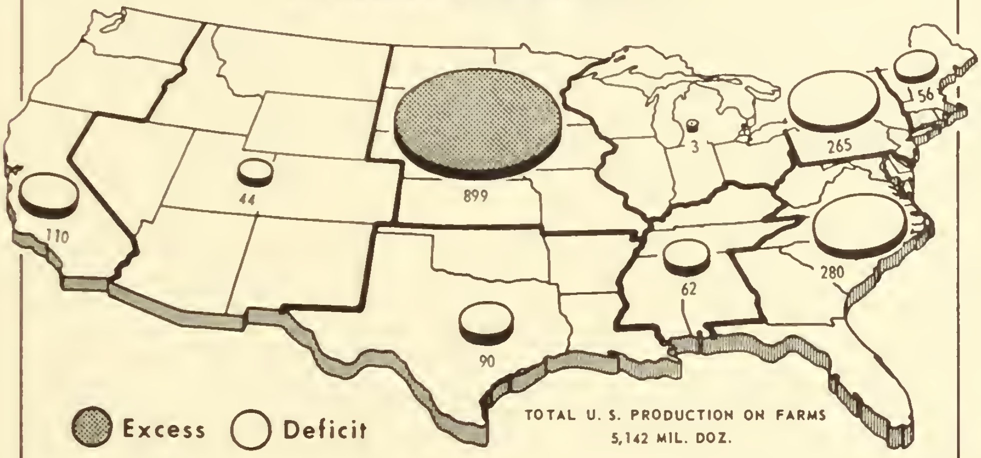
PES-170

In this issue:
Seasonality in
poultry slaughter

AMS

REGIONAL EGG PRODUCTION, 1953

Excesses and Deficits*



TOTAL U. S. PRODUCTION ON FARMS
5,142 MIL. DOZ.

FIGURES REFER TO MILLIONS OF DOZENS. *FROM U. S. AVERAGE OF 390 EGGS PRODUCED ON FARMS PER PERSON.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 448-54(2) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

The West North Central region is the only one in the U. S. which has a substantial year-round excess of eggs available for shipment to other regions. In the first half of each year, when seasonally high local production limits the requirements of other regions for outside eggs, an important part of mid-Western egg production is prepared for storage in either frozen, shell, or dried form.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1943-52 1/	1953 1/	1954 1/	Month or date	Average 1943-52 1/	1953	1954	Comments on current situation
					EGGS					
Farm production	Mil. doz.	Jan.	386.9	451.3	454.0	Feb.	422.0	442.0	456.3	Production rising seasonally
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	Jan.	399.7	374.1	382.2	Feb.	392.1	362.8	371.8	
Rate of lay per layer	Eggs	Jan.	11.7	14.5	14.2	Feb.	13.0	14.6	14.7	
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	Eggs	Dec.	30.4	35.6	35.1	Jan.	33.3	37.1	35.1	
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	Dec.	2.5	5.0	10.4	Jan.	11.9	15.5	21.9	
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	Dec.	5.9	0.7	1.2	Jan.	7.1	0.4	1.7	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	Jan.	40.7	45.8	46.3	Feb.	36.6	42.0	45.7	Declined later in February
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	Jan.	92	101	104	Feb.	92	103	112	Parity base changed January 1
Retail price (AMS)	Ct. per doz.	Dec.	64.8	64.2	66.5	Jan.	57.1	64.9	N.A.	
Egg-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Jan.	12.1	11.3	12.1	Feb.	10.9	10.6	11.8	
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous. cases	Jan. 1	288	153	89	Feb. 1	295	120	76	
Frozen	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	99.5	50.2	42.0	Feb. 1	76.6	35.0	37.5	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	Jan.	71.1	127.3	140.4	Feb.	134.5	172.9	2/	
Pullets not yet of laying age on farms	Millions	Jan. 1	42.8	24.3	25.9	Feb. 1	26.8	17.0	17.9	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol. per cwt	Jan.	3.48	4.06	3.82	Feb.	3.42	3.96	3.86	
					POULTRY					
Price received by farmers for chickens, live										
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	Jan.	28.7	28.2	24.6	Feb.	28.3	27.9	22.6	Have been low for 3 months
Farm chickens	Ct. per lb.	Jan.	25.2	23.3	21.6	Feb.	25.5	24.0	21.7	
All chickens	Ct. per lb.	Jan.	26.9	26.5	23.8	Feb.	27.0	26.6	22.4	
Price received by farmers for all chickens as a percentage of parity	Percent	Jan.	104	85	80	Feb.	105	86	75	
Retail price of broilers and fryers dressed (AMS) 3/	Ct. per lb.	Dec.	48.4	57.2	51.0	Jan.	48.7	55.6	N.A.	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	Jan.	35.1	33.6	33.2	Feb.	34.0	33.3	32.7	
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	183.2	132.0	153.7	Feb. 1	167.2	118.2	141.2	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	Jan. 1	96.9	146.6	122.1	Feb. 1	104.8	142.9	124.5	
Chicken-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Jan.	7.9	6.5	6.2	Feb.	8.1	6.7	5.9	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Jan.	10.4	8.3	8.7	Feb.	10.1	8.4	8.5	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 14 broiler areas	Millions	Jan.	---	13.9	14.9	Feb.	---	14.3	15.5	Placements large despite low prices

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1/ Except where data are for December, in which cases the current year is 1953, and the comparisons are respectively 1952 and 1942-51. 2/ Eggs in incubators February 1 were 15 percent above a year earlier. 3/ The 10 year averages in this line are not precisely comparable to the averages for the individual months, since prior to April 1949 this item was reported as "chickens," and since then as "broilers and fryers."

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 11, 1954

SUMMARY

The seasonal decline in egg prices that usually occurs early in the year came later than usual in 1954. Prices remained quite steady in January and the first part of February, probably because the rise in the rate of lay per bird from January 1 to February 1 was smaller than usual. In late February, however, prices declined sharply and by mid-March were 6 to 9 cents below a year earlier in several markets.

With egg production the next few months likely to be above 1953, prices are likely to continue below a year earlier. Nevertheless, farmers probably will raise more pullets for laying flock replacement than last year, because the present returns from egg production are favorable, particularly in comparison with many alternatives. So far this season, the hatch of chicks has been larger than in 1953.

Hatchings of broiler chicks in recent months have also been ahead of last year, despite the slump in broiler prices which began in November in some areas, and that had spread over the Nation by December. While broiler prices by early March had risen several cents above their extreme lows of December, the 23 cent (Georgia) and 22 cent (Del-Mar-Va) prices reported on March 9 from important producing areas were considerably below the respective 26.6 and 23.3 cent averages of broiler prices there for 1953.

Turkey hatchings are also at a very high rate, much above farmers' January intentions to raise 6 percent more heavy-breed turkeys than last year, and 9 percent more light-breed turkeys. The large number of turkey breeders available indicates that turkey hatchings through the spring will exceed the 1952 record. Growers and processors sold 6 percent of the 1952 crop to the Government's surplus removal program.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Low Rate of Lay in Early February Deferred Springtime Egg Price Decline

Egg prices were steady in January and the first part of February, and remained above a year earlier. In mid-February, the average price received by farmers was 45.7 cents per dozen, compared with 42.0 cents a year earlier and 34.7 cents 2 years earlier. In the last half of February and to mid-March, wholesale prices for eggs declined several cents per dozen. Most grades fell to levels below those of a year earlier but continued well above 1952 levels. However, prices at the levels of early March probably would still be attractive enough to farmers to induce them to buy more chicks for flock replacement this year than the 615 million raised in 1953.

The steadiness in egg prices in January and into February was partly due to the fact that production did not increase so much as usual. This was because output per bird rose so little from January 1 to February 1 that on the later date the rate was below a year earlier, 47.3 eggs per 100 layers compared with 49.3 on February 1, 1953. This was the first time since May 1953 that the rate had been below the same month of the preceding year. On March 1, the rate of lay had recovered to a level above last year, 57.9 eggs per 100 layers compared with 55.1 in 1953. The rise from February 1 to March 1 indicates that the number of eggs laid per 100 layers this spring probably will increase to close to the past peaks of about 60 eggs per day per 100 layers.

Through late February, commercial egg breaking had been confined largely to production for current consumption. At the lower prices of late February, commercial egg breaking for immediate use, for freezing, and for drying, is likely to increase to the rate where product will be made for storage for the year ahead, as well as current use. The deeper yellow color that develops in yolks as the season progresses also will encourage more commercial breaking since a premium usually is paid for frozen egg of deep color. So long as total stocks of frozen egg in storage do not exceed last year by more than perhaps 10 or 15 percent, the volume of commercial egg breaking probably will be large enough to hold egg prices near the early March level through the spring. But prices might drop lower if storage accumulations of frozen egg exceed 1953 by more than a moderate margin.

When prices of fresh eggs were declining in mid-February, prices of egg futures contracts also fell. The weekly report of storage holdings in 35 cities indicates that the season's first net in-movement of shell eggs to storage occurred in the week ended February 20, which was 2 weeks later than last year, and 6 weeks later than either 1952 or 1951. It is still too early to anticipate the extent of shell egg storage this spring. Factors which will influence the total are: (1) the long-time declining trend in storage of shell eggs, (2) the course of fresh egg prices this spring (lower prices would favor storage), and (3) the production outlook for eggs for late summer and fall (prospects for expanded output would discourage storage).

Table 1 .- Rate of lay, numbers of birds in laying flocks and estimated egg production on farms, first day of selected months, 1950 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
	a. Eggs laid per 100 layers, first day of the month							
1950	41.4	46.0	52.8	58.2	60.0	57.2	51.2	47.4
1951	39.8	47.1	53.2	58.7	60.6	58.0	53.1	47.7
1952	40.9	49.1	55.1	59.3	60.6	57.6	51.0	46.7
1953	44.1	49.3	55.1	60.5	60.2	58.2	52.4	49.5
1954	44.8	47.3	57.9					
	b. Birds in laying flocks, first day of the month (millions)							
1950	392	382	370	355	334	315	299	289
1951	380	372	364	346	329	311	297	285
1952	388	384	370	351	333	315	297	288
1953	380	369	357	343	327	310	297	289
1954	387	377	367					
	c. Estimated production on farms, first day of the month (millions of eggs)							
1950	162	176	196	207	200	180	153	137
1951	151	175	194	203	199	180	158	136
1952	159	187	204	208	202	181	151	134
1953	168	182	197	208	197	180	156	143
1954	173	178	212					

Table 2 .- Shell and frozen eggs in refrigerated storage

Date	Shell eggs			Frozen eggs			Shell and frozen combined 1/		
	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954
	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Thous. cases	Thous. cases	Thous. cases
	Total U.S. stocks								
Jan. 1	141	153	89	67	50	42	1,886	1,456	1,181
Feb. 1	238	120	76	53	35	38	1,616	1,029	1,051
Mar. 1	942	248		61	42		2,515	1,350	
Apr. 1	1,596	375		84	65		3,785	2,069	
May 1	2,184	816		111	99		5,072	3,387	
June 1	3,184	1,431		146	132		6,973	4,867	
July 1	3,357	1,513		166	160		7,680	5,662	
Aug. 1	2,728	1,199		163	153		6,971	5,169	
Sept. 1	2,169	827		144	133		5,918	4,293	
Oct. 1	1,709	494		124	110		4,921	3,348	
Nov. 1	1,000	288		95	87		3,476	2,544	
Dec. 1	393	137		72	61		2,275	1,722	
	Stocks in 35 principal cities 2/								
Feb. 27	690	141	77	35	24	21	1,606	761	612
Mar. 6	791	158	106	37	26	23	1,762	826	704
Mar. 13	914	171		40	28		1,958	899	
Mar. 20	1,019	176		44	32		2,161	999	
Mar. 27	1,107	201		48	34		2,352	1,079	
Apr. 3	1,189	222		51	38		2,518	1,199	

1/ Frozen egg converted at 38.5 pounds equivalent to 1 case.
2/ Given dates are for 1954; for other years, corresponding Saturdays.

Table 3 .- Eggs: Monthly commercial supply from farm production, and average prices, January 1952 to date 1/

Year and month	Egg production on farms	Net cold storage movements, shell and frozen equivalent: Out	Net cold storage movements, shell and frozen equivalent: In	Eggs for hatching	Government purchases for surplus removal 2/	Effective supply in commercial channels (Including U.S. Armed Forces	U.S. average farm price per dozen	U.S. average retail price (AMS) per dozen
	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	Cents	Cents
1952								
Jan.	14,894	270		793		14,371	40.5	58.8
Feb.	15,744		899	1,219		13,626	34.7	53.0
Mar.	17,739		1,270	1,208		15,261	34.0	51.5
Apr.	17,072		1,287	900		14,885	35.2	53.0
May	16,494		1,901	486		14,107	34.2	52.2
June	13,864		707	354		12,803	35.7	54.0
July	12,311	709		327		12,693	43.3	66.3
Aug.	11,461	1,053		333		12,181	48.2	68.8
Sept.	11,336	997		360	125	11,848	48.7	69.5
Oct.	12,139	1,445		366	83	13,135	50.3	74.2
Nov.	12,417	1,201		395	17	13,206	51.9	72.3
Dec.	13,931	819		530	1	14,219	46.6	64.2
1953								
Jan.	15,044	427		720		14,751	45.8	64.9
Feb.	14,733		321	1,204		13,208	42.0	59.8
Mar.	17,422		719	1,258		15,445	44.7	63.5
Apr.	16,856		1,318	990		14,548	45.5	64.0
May	16,239		1,480	568		14,191	45.9	64.0
June	13,978		795	403		12,780	45.7	65.1
July	12,844	493		375		12,962	47.7	67.8
Aug.	12,025	876		354		12,547	50.2	69.9
Sept.	11,639	945		400		12,184	51.4	73.1
Oct.	12,778	804		446		13,136	53.2	74.7
Nov.	13,289	822		486		13,625	49.7	68.6
Dec.	14,553	541		585		14,509	48.5	66.5
1954								
Jan.	15,133	130		3/ 828		14,435	46.3	
Feb.	15,211						45.7	
Mar.								

1/ Corresponding data for prior months are given in The Poultry and Egg Situation, June 1951, table 5, page 12 and Mar.-Apr. 1952, table 1, page 5.

2/ Surplus removal purchases for 1952 entered according to month of scheduled delivery.

3/ Estimated on basis of eggs in incubators February 1.

Early-season Indications Suggest Chickens Raised to Exceed 1952

Reports of hatchery operations to date indicate that farmers will raise more chickens for laying flock replacement than the 615 million raised in 1953. Their intentions on February 1 had indicated they would raise the same number for replacement as in 1953.

Total hatchery output of chickens in January was 10 percent larger than in January 1953, and the number of eggs in incubators February 1 was 15 percent above a year earlier. Since corresponding increases in 14 major specialized broiler areas were only 7 and 8 percent, it is obvious that the early-season hatch for laying flock replacement is substantially greater this year than last. In California, where detailed statistics are available, output of light-breed chicks from November 1, 1953 to late February was 33 percent over the same months a year earlier.

These increases were stimulated by the fact that until mid-February egg-feed price relationships were more favorable than a year earlier. Since then, the decline in egg prices has made the egg-feed price ratio less attractive but it remains high enough so that egg producers are likely to expand their laying flocks.

The price relationships are similar to that of the spring of 1953 when favorable egg-feed price relationships did not result in an expansion in the laying flock. However, several circumstances suggest that the increase in chick production, already apparent in the first 2 months of 1954, will carry through for most of the hatching season.

Table 4.- Sexed chicks: Farmers' purchases, 1942-53, and intentions, 1954

Year	Chickens raised by farmers for laying flock replacement 1/	Percentage of farmers' baby chick purchases made as sexed pullets	Year	Chickens raised by farmers for laying flock replacement 1/	Percentage of farmers' baby chick purchases made as sexed pullets
	Millions	Percent		Millions	Percent
1942	844	21	1948	615	30
1943	1,001	17	1949	705	31
1944	832	20	1950	635	32
1945	890	18	1951	663	33
1946	738	22	1952	617	37
1947	719	26	1953	615	42
			1954		2/44

1/ Excluding specialized broilers...
2/ Intentions.

Farmers last spring may have believed that egg prices would not remain favorable through the spring. However the U. S. average of egg prices persisted at about 45 cents per dozen which boosted hatchings in May, June and July well above a year earlier. Despite the mid-February drop in egg prices this year, farmers may expect egg prices to remain favorable.

Table 5.- Egg-feed price ratio, chickens raised, and pullets on farms, January 1, United States, 1925 to date

Year	Egg-feed price ratio (weighted average*)	Chickens raised	Pullets on farms January 1 following	Percentage of preceding year: Intentions to raise chickens	Egg-feed price ratio*	Chickens raised	Pullets on farms January 1 following
	Pounds	Millions	Millions	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1925	12.9	679			102	103	
1926	13.5	718			105	106	
1927	13.4	750			99	104	
1928	12.2	700			91	93	
1929	13.1	751			107	107	
1930	13.8	777	244		105	104	
1931	10.6	709	230		77	91	94
1932	11.6	736	237		109	104	103
1933	14.3	750	238		123	102	100
1934	10.9	644	212		76	86	89
1935	11.4	658	226		105	102	107
1936	13.1	715	249		115	109	110
1937	9.4	601	215		72	84	86
1938	11.4	651	242		121	108	113
1939	12.6	697	254		111	107	105
1940	10.4	634	240	96	83	91	94
1941	11.5	745	278	109	111	118	116
1942	13.2	844	319	112	115	113	115
1943	14.7	1,001	350	116	111	119	110
1944	11.2	832	301	83	76	83	86
1945	12.8	890	322	96	114	107	107
1946	11.9	738	281	86	93	83	87
1947	11.3	719	278	94	95	97	99
1948	9.8	615	258	80	87	86	93
1949	12.7	705	287	107	130	115	111
1950	9.6	635	264	88	76	90	92
1951	11.4	663	276	96	119	104	105
1952	1/ 9.1	617	1/254	90	1/80	93	92
1953	11.3(11.2)	2/615	281	96	124	100	111
1954	3/(12.2)			100			

1/ Revised.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ For 1954 November through February; comparable 1953 in parentheses.

* Weights are as follows: Preceding November, 1; preceding December, 2; January, 3; February, 4; March, 5; April, 3; May, 1.

Table 6.- Chickens raised, and intentions to raise chickens, by regions, 1943 to date

Year	Chickens raised		Intentions to raise chickens as a percentage of previous year	Chickens raised		Intentions to raise chickens as a percentage of previous year	Chickens raised		Intentions to raise chickens as a percentage of previous year
	Number	Percentage of previous year		Number	Percentage of previous year		Number	Percentage of previous year	
	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.
	New England			Middle Atlantic			East North Central		
1943	34	121	132	94	131	123	184	118	110
1944	31	91	80	80	85	74	154	84	84
1945	31	100	94	90	112	110	171	111	92
1946	23	74	88	69	77	89	140	82	81
1947	26	113	93	68	99	103	136	97	92
1948	24	92	81	61	90	84	115	85	79
1949	29	121	111	74	121	114	135	117	99
1950	29	100	105	67	91	91	124	92	85
1951	31	107	140	76	113	100	126	102	92
1952	33	106	96	73	96	95	118	94	87
1953 1/	35	105	99	75	103	100	120	102	90
1954			100			103			94
	West North Central			South Atlantic			East South Central		
1943	286	116	112	108	119	126	89	114	125
1944	239	84	87	93	86	88	73	82	88
1945	251	105	90	92	99	107	74	101	96
1946	215	86	84	80	87	95	69	93	99
1947	210	98	91	75	94	93	65	94	95
1948	160	76	71	69	92	94	61	94	89
1949	187	117	102	73	106	105	66	108	107
1950	168	90	83	66	90	92	57	86	98
1951	173	103	88	68	103	102	57	100	101
1952	152	88	86	67	99	103	55	96	99
1953 1/	157	103	92	64	95	98	52	94	98
1954			94			104			104
	West South Central			Mountain			Pacific		
1943	120	119	115	33	122	119	53	118	121
1944	94	78	80	26	79	79	42	79	71
1945	99	105	96	28	108	90	50	119	106
1946	82	83	91	23	82	88	37	74	78
1947	79	96	96	22	96	96	37	100	92
1948	66	84	84	21	95	94	38	103	81
1949	77	117	117	22	105	110	42	111	117
1950	66	86	88	20	91	88	39	93	88
1951	66	100	97	22	110	100	45	115	102
1952	58	88	94	19	86	86	42	93	85
1953 1/	54	94	99	19	93	106	41	102	100
1954			107			105			108

1/ Preliminary

A related consideration is that in recent months profits from the egg production enterprise have compared very favorably with those from alternative enterprises. In view of the scheduled decline in support levels for milk and butterfat, egg production may appear more favorable than the dairy enterprise to many farmers. Chicken meat production is presently unprofitable. Consequently some farmers may expand enterprises which are currently profitable, such as egg and pork production, in order to maintain income. Farmers' intentions for the spring pig crop call for a 6 percent increase in the number of sows to farrow over 1953. These intentions are ordinarily more definite than those for chickens since they are stated after a large proportion of the sows have been bred.

Placements Continue Large Despite Drop in Broiler Prices

Despite continued broiler prices generally lower than 25 cents per pound since late in 1953, weekly chick placements in specified production areas continued at record or near-record levels through February and into March. Mid-month broiler prices received by farmers for the last 3 months averaged 23.5 cents (23.4 cents per pound (live) in December 1953, 24.6 cents in January 1954, and 22.6 in February). The average for the 3 months is lower than the average for any previous month since January 1950, when 21.3 cents was reported, and lower than in any other 3 month period since mid-1942. At that time the index of feed prices paid by farmers was about 132 (1910-1914=100) compared with 225 in February.

The outlook for broiler prices in the next 8 or 10 weeks is affected on one hand by the prospective large supplies of broilers, and on the other by the reduced number of hogs and fed cattle expected to be available for slaughter in the next few months.

On the basis of earlier placements, March slaughter of broilers is likely to be record-large. The number of chicks placed and eggs set in incubators indicates that slaughter will not decline significantly in April, and may rise in May. In the past, low broiler prices usually have eventually resulted in a reduced supply, but at present no appreciable decline in total U. S. production is yet apparent.

This spring, however, supplies of red meats are likely to be moderately below a year earlier. The number of cattle on feed at the beginning of this year was 9 percent below a year earlier, and the number of hogs then under 6 months of age was 8 percent lower. These classes will supply a large part of the slaughter supplies of livestock in the next few months. February 1 storage stocks of red meats were lower than a year earlier by 27 percent, equivalent to almost 2 pounds per capita.

Later in the year, supplies of red meats probably will be about as large as a year earlier. Total cattle numbers on January 1 were at an all-time high of 94.7 million head, with the largest percentage gain occurring in beef cows. Farmers intend 6 percent more sows than last year to farrow for the spring pig crop.

Table 7.- Broilers, indications of prospective marketings, as shown by monthly averages of weekly chick placements in specialized reporting areas, December 1953 - February 1954, with comparisons.

Area	Average weekly broiler chick placements in stated months:										
	Affecting marketings in March 1954 and subsequently				Affecting marketings immediately prior			Affecting marketings a year earlier			
	Dec. 1953	Jan. 1954	Feb. 1954	March 1954	Sept. 1953	Oct. 1953	Nov. 1953	Dec. 1952	Jan. 1953	Feb. 1953	Mar. 1953
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Connecticut.......	0.4	0.4	0.5	---	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
Del-Mar-Va........	2.8	2.8	2.8	---	2.5	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.1
Shenandoah Valley.	.9	.8	.9	---	.8	.9	1.0	.9	.8	.9	1.0
N. Carolina.......	1.1	1.1	1.1	---	.9	.9	1.1	.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
N. Georgia........	2.8	2.8	2.9	---	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.7
N.W. Arkansas.....	1.1	1.1	1.1	---	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Texas.............	1.5	1.4	1.4	---	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4
Alabama...........	.9	.8	.9	---	.5	.6	.7	.5	.5	.6	.7
Mississippi.......	.8	.9	.9	---	.5	.6	.7	.6	.7	.8	.8
Florida...........	.3	.3	.3	---	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2
Indiana...........	.7	.8	.8	---	.6	.7	.8	.7	.7	.8	.9
Total, 11 areas.	13.4	13.1	13.6	---	10.4	11.5	13.1	11.9	12.3	12.5	13.5
Oregon............	.1	.1	.1	---	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1
Maine.............	.6	.5	.6	---	.6	.5	.6	.5	.5	.5	.5
California........	1.0	1.1	1.1	---	.8	.8	.9	---	1.0	1.2	1.2
Total, 14 areas.	15.1	14.9	15.5	1/15	11.9	12.9	14.6	12.5	13.9	14.3	15.4

1/ Estimated on basis of 1 week's placements plus 3 week's settings of eggs in incubators.

Table 8 .- Weekly broiler placements in specialized areas; broiler prices and broiler-feed price ratios, Salisbury, Maryland, 1952 and 1953

Week ending 2/		1952				1953					
		Placements, 11 areas 1/		Broiler price, per pound, Salisbury	Broiler-feed price ratio, Salisbury	Placements, 11 areas 1/		Placements, 14 areas 1/		Broiler price per pound Salisbury	Broiler-feed price ratio, Salisbury
		Weekly	Cumulative			Weekly	Cumulative	Weekly	Cumulative		
		Thousands	Thousands	Cents	Lb. feed	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Cents	Lb. feed
January	3:	11,910	11,910	28.0	5.1	12,358	12,358	14,143	14,143	30.1	5.6
	10:	12,053	23,963	28.9	5.2	12.259	24,617	14,295	28,438	28.2	5.3
	17:	10,768	34,731	28.9	5.2	11,838	36,505	13,835	42,323	28.0	5.3
	24:	11,644	46,375	28.9	5.2	11,744	48,249	13,840	56,163	27.3	5.1
	31:	12,590	58,965	30.3	5.4	12,136	60,385	14,162	70,325	27.8	5.2
February	7:	13,278	72,243	30.9	5.5	11,780	72,165	13,884	84,209	27.4	5.2
	14:	13,973	86.216	29.8	5.4	12,027	84,192	14,187	98,396	28.2	5.4
	21:	14,210	100,426	28.8	5.2	12,318	96,510	14,573	112,969	28.3	5.4
	28:	14,134	114,560	28.8	5.1	12,927	109,437	15,152	128,121	27.3	5.2
March	7:	14,367	128,927	26.1	4.8	12,927	122,364	15,037	143,158	27.3	5.2
	14:	13,899	142,826	26.0	4.7	13,431	135,795	15,710	158,868	27.1	5.2
	21:	13,250	156,076	27.6	5.0	13,643	149,438	15,924	174,792	26.8	5.1
	28:	12,862	168,938	27.0	4.9	13.264	162,702	15,490	190,282	27.2	5.2
April	4:	12,560	181,498	26.9	4.8	13,586	176,288	15,882	206,164	27.0	5.1
	11:	12,358	193,856	26.8	4.8	13,250	189,538	15,630	221,794	26.2	5.0
	18:	12,140	205,996	26.2	4.8	13,691	203,229	16,077	237,871	26.7	5.2
	25:	12,226	218,222	25.8	4.8	13,625	216,854	15,937	253,808	26.1	5.0
May	2:	11,611	229,833	25.1	4.5	13,707	230,561	16,097	269,905	25.8	5.0
	9:	11,662	241.495	22.6	4.1	13,423	243,984	15,840	285,745	26.0	5.0
	16:	11,542	253,037	22.0	4.0	13,271	257,255	15,507	301,252	25.6	4.9
	23:	11,310	264,347	25.4	4.6	13,095	270,350	15,261	316,513	25.4	4.9
	30:	10,750	275,097	24.8	4.5	13,033	283,383	15,425	331,938	25.7	4.9
June	6:	10,805	285,902	25.6	4.6	13,133	296.516	15,375	347,313	25.2	4.9
	13:	11,251	297,153	25.5	4.6	13,136	309,652	15,389	362,702	24.1	4.7
	20:	11,511	308,664	25.0	4.5	12,879	322,531	15,163	377,865	24.8	4.9
	27:	11.438	320,102	24.7	4.5	12,337	334,868	14,327	392,192	24.8	4.9
July	4:	10,870	330,972	24.4	4.4	12.177	347,045	14,218	406,410	26.2	5.1
	11:	10,717	341,689	27.3	4.9	11,618	358,663	13,751	420,161	28.3	5.5
	18:	10,201	351,890	28.5	5.1	11,365	370,028	13,319	433,480	30.1	5.9
	25:	8,734	360,624	28.2	5.1	10,896	380,924	12,769	446,249	28.7	5.6
August	1:	8,752	369,376	28.6	5.1	10,492	391,416	12,289	458,538	28.7	5.6
	8:	9,507	378,883	32.1	5.8	10,292	401,708	12,053	470,591	28.6	5.6
	15:	9,486	388,369	32.5	5.8	10,810	412,518	12,600	483,191	28.4	5.5
	22:	8,735	397,104	33.4	5.9	10,711	423,229	12,502	495,693	28.5	5.6
	29:	8,581	405,685	32.5	5.7	9,985	433,214	11,793	507,486	28.3	5.5
September	5:	8,933	414,618	31.8	5.6	9,730	442,944	11,397	518,883	27.2	5.3
	12:	9,167	423,785	33.0	5.8	9,932	452,876	11,764	530,647	27.6	5.3
	19:	9,174	432,959	31.2	5.5	10,389	463,265	12,185	542,832	28.0	5.5
	26:	9,405	442,364	30.4	5.5	10,560	473,825	12,326	555,158	27.5	5.4
October	3:	9,567	451,931	29.5	5.4	10,210	484,035	11,866	567,024	26.6	5.4
	10:	9,923	461,854	28.7	5.3	10,422	494,457	12,087	579,111	25.7	5.2
	17:	9,659	471,513	28.0	5.2	10,965	505,422	12,584	591,695	25.2	5.1
	24:	10,256	481,769	28.2	5.3	11,512	516,934	13,348	605,043	25.0	5.1
	31:	10,441	492,210	30.6	5.8	11,902	528,836	13,757	618,800	24.0	4.9
November	7:	10,759	502,969	32.4	6.2	12,216	541,052	14,193	632,993	24.3	5.0
	14:	10,863	513,832	34.7	6.6	12,590	553,642	14,458	647,451	25.1	5.2
	21:	11,262	525,094	32.9	6.3	13,062	566,704	14,858	662,309	25.0	5.1
	28:	11,076	536,170	32.7	6.3	13.213	579,917	15,071	677,380	24.3	5.0
December	5:	11,448	547,618	33.8	6.4	13,314	593,231	15,355	692,735	23.2	4.7
	12:	11,756	559,374	30.9	5.8	13.257	606,488	15,380	708,115	21.2	4.2
	19:	12,013	571,387	27.4	5.3	13,679	620,167	15.700	723,815	18.4	3.6
	26:	10,697	582,084	n.a.	n.a.	11,473	631,640	13.219	737,034	18.0	3.5
Total and average		582,084		28.2	5.2	631,640		737,034		5.1	26.1

1/ 11 areas: Del-Mar-Va., Shenadoah Valley (Va. and W. Va.), N. Car., Ga., N. W. Ark., Texas, Ind., Miss., Ala., Fla., and Oregon. Fourteen areas also include Calif., Conn., and Maine: Comparable 1952-53 figures for 14-area comparisons are not available. 2/ Dates given are for 1953. Entries for 1952 are for corresponding weeks. n.a. - Not available.

Table 9 .- Weekly placements of broiler chicks in 14 specialized areas, 1953, and annual totals, 1952 and 1953 1/

Week ending	Alabama	North West Ark.	California	Connecticut	Del-Mar-Va.	Florida	Georgia	Indiana	Maine	Mississippi	N. Carolina	Oregon	Shen. Valley Va. and W. Va.	Texas
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
Jan. 3	536	1,096	922	344	3,587	220	2,311	705	519	714	980	90	878	1,241
10	496	1,044	1,022	476	3,548	236	2,351	678	533	775	990	80	851	1,210
17	451	956	1,012	453	3,264	214	2,363	800	532	664	992	88	878	1,218
24	543	970	983	495	3,075	214	2,397	663	613	700	911	101	922	1,248
31	553	978	1,047	468	3,173	225	2,465	740	511	696	981	101	926	1,293
Feb. 7	543	1,021	1,087	477	2,760	224	2,493	683	540	797	938	94	840	1,382
14	553	1,097	1,194	473	2,695	221	2,595	794	493	752	1,028	103	853	1,426
21	623	951	1,223	519	2,750	263	2,690	811	513	746	1,028	96	1,000	1,360
28	625	1,049	1,240	528	3,047	236	2,770	732	457	826	1,047	112	1,036	1,397
Mar. 7	655	1,075	1,179	445	2,895	229	2,819	863	486	835	995	101	1,066	1,394
14	711	1,036	1,220	512	3,091	240	2,896	827	547	815	1,130	118	1,047	1,470
21	713	1,019	1,268	452	3,203	223	2,359	967	561	895	1,055	118	1,086	1,500
28	710	1,059	1,208	518	3,111	221	2,782	793	500	840	1,142	108	1,032	1,466
Apr. 4	664	1,009	1,247	541	3,232	262	2,932	842	508	828	1,106	97	1,072	1,542
11	618	1,124	1,363	493	3,041	259	2,802	801	524	863	1,071	121	1,099	1,451
18	716	1,072	1,312	506	3,192	217	2,790	832	568	887	1,116	108	1,117	1,644
25	677	1,106	1,181	424	3,104	234	2,830	841	707	865	1,151	99	1,067	1,601
May 2	650	1,179	1,372	474	3,140	219	2,990	834	544	855	1,111	136	1,046	1,538
9	641	1,111	1,246	575	2,990	196	2,943	779	596	835	1,158	136	1,036	1,593
16	603	1,023	1,208	443	2,968	234	2,952	840	585	850	1,151	116	933	1,506
23	720	1,065	1,204	408	2,924	214	2,737	803	554	890	1,169	112	955	1,456
30	721	1,054	1,187	521	2,901	175	2,810	807	684	845	1,111	135	974	1,500
June 6	699	1,097	1,141	477	2,895	197	2,911	768	624	831	1,129	147	986	1,473
13	734	1,066	1,102	534	2,829	194	2,826	820	567	851	1,094	119	1,069	1,534
20	634	1,015	1,146	497	2,848	198	2,820	797	641	866	1,133	116	981	1,421
27	603	1,018	1,101	377	2,661	184	2,667	734	512	737	1,091	116	1,045	1,431
July 4	578	1,012	991	446	2,883	137	2,634	663	604	747	1,069	109	971	1,319
11	510	891	1,049	536	2,749	183	2,581	677	548	649	1,056	114	964	1,244
18	536	748	945	427	2,514	182	2,486	702	582	575	1,029	117	995	1,181
25	513	739	922	323	2,690	139	2,409	652	628	548	986	130	843	1,147
Aug. 1	467	732	878	333	2,603	194	2,206	663	536	602	964	108	796	1,107
8	454	865	826	406	2,512	200	2,144	682	529	565	865	86	806	1,113
15	503	798	850	416	2,550	190	2,305	756	524	621	962	83	802	1,240
22	503	824	857	392	2,497	193	2,237	687	542	630	1,006	104	769	1,211
29	496	732	850	417	2,455	134	2,074	671	541	563	825	102	730	1,153
Sept. 5	458	692	815	299	2,493	182	2,091	547	553	520	870	70	753	1,054
12	465	686	840	397	2,550	174	2,042	671	595	513	908	88	763	1,072
19	436	736	874	407	2,660	152	2,019	711	515	553	916	89	886	1,181
26	591	756	798	396	2,513	167	2,150	699	572	565	984	96	848	1,191
Oct. 3	522	741	798	310	2,421	166	2,160	618	543	596	922	84	793	1,187
10	510	792	819	312	2,500	161	2,151	634	534	607	869	100	894	1,204
17	565	805	723	334	2,679	177	2,258	701	562	641	939	77	854	1,269
24	602	853	833	473	2,805	136	2,314	799	530	667	996	63	949	1,278
31	712	921	835	455	2,876	209	2,407	819	565	640	988	77	958	1,295
Nov. 7	646	907	901	495	2,959	213	2,456	835	581	719	1,064	66	989	1,312
14	716	944	876	453	3,133	243	2,515	779	539	689	1,102	76	1,003	1,390
21	739	1,094	857	337	3,079	237	2,685	874	552	673	1,133	119	958	1,421
28	775	1,107	871	415	2,937	264	2,807	841	572	787	1,091	69	984	1,551
Dec. 5	383	1,097	961	503	2,998	263	2,821	795	577	738	1,205	106	889	1,469
12	332	1,114	964	491	2,900	235	2 874	757	668	813	1,107	99	944	1,532
19	377	1,141	1,002	407	3,170	232	2,840	759	612	860	1,075	86	969	1,620
26	339	1,013	912	266	2,190	294	2 636	654	586	683	839	70	784	1,471
Total 1953	32,334	50,091	53,267	23,026	149,545	11,106	133,258	39,355	29,101	37,872	53,578	5,256	48,689	70,507
Total 1952	25,974	52,179	2/	2/	139,524	11,022	120,752	36,902	2/	35,598	44,999	5,063	42,460	67,611
% change from 1952	+ 25	- 4	2/	2/	+ 7	+ 1	+ 10	+ 7	2/	+ 6	+19	+ 4	+ 15	+ 4

1/ Weekly totals for these 14 areas shown in table 8.
2/ 1952 data not complete for all weeks.

Beef and pork are the largest components of the meat supply. In 1953, the quantities consumed per person compared with poultry and other similar foods were as follows:

Item	Basis of Weight	Average Consumption per Civilian
		Pounds
Beef	Carcass weight equivalent	76.3
Veal	Carcass weight equivalent	9.4
Lamb and mutton	Carcass weight equivalent	4.7
Pork	Carcass weight equivalent	63.6
Total red meats		154.0
Chicken	Ready-to-cook equivalent	1/ 22.8
Turkey	Ready-to-cook equivalent	4.1
Total poultry		26.9
Fish, all forms	Edible weight	10.8

Since broiler prices are lower than the average of recent years, while hog prices are higher, there is the suggestion that broilers do not interchange perfectly with pork or perhaps even beef, in satisfying consumer demand.

1/ Of this total, probably more than one-half was from commercial broilers.

Turkey Hatchings Start at High Level for the Season

The number of turkey breeders on hand and hatchery activity to date point to a larger turkey crop than farmers intended in January. At that time, farmers reported that they planned to raise 9 percent more small turkeys and 6 percent more large ones in 1954 than in 1953. Even if (as is likely) turkey production later this year shows a smaller increase over a year earlier than in January, the crop may equal or exceed the 60.7 million birds raised in 1952. About 6 percent of that crop was sold to the Government in a surplus removal operation.

The significant facts indicating the larger poult output this past December and January than a year earlier, and the potentially large output to follow, are summarized in table 10.

Table 10.- Turkeys: Indications of change in 1954 crop from 1953
(data in terms of percentage change from previous year)

Class of turkey	December 1953 poult output, 7 leading States 1/	January 1954 poult output, United States	Turkey breeder hens on farms January 1, 1954	Turkeys tested for inclusion in breeding flocks July 1953-February 1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Heavy breeds	+10	+41	-7	-2
Light breeds	+163	+90	+40	+44

1/ Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, South Carolina, California.

Each of the entries in the above table, except those concerning the number of heavy-breed breeders, indicates an increase from the year before. The decreases in number of heavy-breed breeders have not been so great, however, as to result in a decreased output of heavy-breed poults: those numbers are indicated to be up, although less than light breeds.

Hatchery operations in January and February 1953 accounted for less than 10 percent of the season's poult output. Therefore the percentage increases that are covered by the statistics in the table above apply only to a relatively small percentage of the crop. However, if those upward trends continue, the supply in the fall is likely to be so large that the demand for long-term (4 or 5 month) storage, rather than anticipated consumer demand for holiday and other direct consumption, may become the dominant price-making influence in the fall.

Commercial storage holdings of turkeys on February 1 were about the same as a year earlier, excluding from those holdings the part of the 1952 crop which was then in storage for eventual delivery to the Government. (On February 1, 1953, the USDA had outstanding contracts for the delivery of about 18 million pounds of turkey. If the total storage stocks of that date are reduced accordingly, the resulting total of 125 million pounds of turkey stored is about the same as the 124 million pounds on February 1, 1954). Weekly reports from 35 cities since February 1 indicate a slower outmovement than last year, but the significance of this is hard to determine in view of the speedy disposal which the Government arranged last year for the stocks contracted to it.

For the U. S. as a whole, the number of turkeys, of both heavy and light breeds, remaining on farms January 1 for other than breeding purposes (i.e., for marketing directly) was about the same as a year earlier. The numbers of light breed turkeys other than breeders in Virginia and West Virginia also were at about last year's level. This suggests that the poults resulting from the 40 percent increase over last year in turkey egg settings reported for August 1953-February 1954 by Shenandoah Valley hatcheries may have been absorbed partly by breeding flocks (which in those States were 10 percent larger than last year), and by shipments of poults to other areas.

Turkey prices received by farmers in mid-February were 32.7 cents per pound (live) compared with 33.3 cents a year earlier. However, even for light weight turkeys, sales in February are seasonally small. Sales from farms will increase later when breeder hens are being marketed and then will again decline until about mid-summer.

Seasonality of Poultry Slaughter

Seasonal changes in commercial poultry slaughter in the United States are even greater than for egg production, with fall slaughter typically running double that of the spring. However, poultry prices have usually shown smaller seasonal changes than output because the seasonal changes in production can be reasonably well anticipated, storage practices compensate for part of the change in slaughter, and the demand for certain classes of poultry (notably turkey) is strongest when slaughter is largest.

Among the classes of poultry, turkey slaughter shows the largest seasonal change, and broilers the smallest. Over the years the total volume of broilers has expanded, both absolutely and as a percent of total poultry. This development has slightly smoothed out the seasonality of total poultry slaughter. This is apparent in table 11.

Table 11 refers to broilers, other chickens, and turkeys commercially slaughtered, lumping these species and excluding farm-consumed birds. It is expressed in terms of equivalent of ready-to-cook (eviscerated) weight of the product. This series first became available in October 1953, and was extended back to 1934.

For broilers, the record of weekly placements in specialized areas indicates the approximate period in which birds are to be slaughtered. In some areas, such as DelMarVa, Georgia and Alabama, the placement information is supplemented by data regarding marketings. This of course is the most direct measure of seasonality of production, but it is not available for most areas. At present, average age of broilers at slaughter is probably 9 to 11 weeks, although as recently as 5 years ago the typical time lag used to relate placements to slaughter was about 12 to 14 weeks.

The 1952 and 1953 records of weekly broiler placements in reporting areas are printed in this Poultry and Egg Situation (tables 8 and 9). The records of earlier years are in the appropriate January issues. At present, the 14 areas from which weekly placement reports are made probably include about 70 percent of the U. S. broiler production. A few years ago, when only 7 areas issued weekly reports, the comparable percentage was probably closer to 60.

Table 11.- Commercial slaughter of poultry, eviscerated (ready-to-cook) basis, monthly, 1934 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1934	47	39	51	58	81	107	119	124	146	155	207	167	1,301
1935	46	39	49	57	77	100	109	116	134	143	193	157	1,220
1936	51	44	54	63	86	110	120	126	149	163	235	194	1,395
1937	51	44	56	63	84	106	114	119	138	150	223	186	1,334
1938	50	44	54	61	81	100	106	111	130	141	220	184	1,282
1939	60	52	65	73	98	119	126	130	150	164	257	219	1,513
1940	70	62	73	86	108	131	139	137	150	168	284	240	1,648
1941	78	73	86	96	112	147	159	158	178	193	303	258	1,841
1942	90	84	108	114	148	179	186	197	228	247	326	281	2,188
1943	112	108	129	134	172	229	262	274	315	328	406	316	2,785
1944	131	113	128	140	197	235	240	259	278	315	374	281	2,691
1945	127	116	132	146	205	230	262	296	339	379	431	331	2,994
1946	130	114	121	138	194	197	243	258	300	332	345	296	2,668
1947	105	103	106	136	173	190	222	249	290	340	385	290	2,589
1948	106	93	109	132	173	187	217	232	267	291	346	274	2,427
1949	127	133	143	171	221	237	256	282	339	336	408	336	2,989
1950	171	149	148	172	223	256	254	287	354	389	440	367	3,210
1951	178	148	183	197	258	316	299	343	427	448	472	384	3,653
1952	203	198	215	242	298	319	319	366	411	447	459	369	3,846
1953	191	193	221	247	289	330	322	387	430	425	471	362	3,868
1954	199												

Table 12.- Seasonal distribution of marketings of farm chickens

Month	U. S.: all classes, marketings from farms as a percentage of annual total weight marketed, 1950 1/	Midwest: Average weekly receipts of live chickens at approximately 200 receiving plants, June 1951-May 1952 1/			Iowa: average weekly receipts of live chickens by selected country assemblers and processors, per plant, 1953			
					All poultry	Percentage composition of total, based on weight		
		Total	Hens	Young stock		Hens	Other farm chickens	Commercial broilers
	Pct.	Thous. lb.	Thous. lb.	Thous. lb.	Thous. lb.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
January	4.1	22.2	9.8	11.9	7.5	71	6	23
February	3.6	22.4	7.7	14.3	6.2	60	5	35
March	3.9	21.9	5.3	16.4	5.0	53	4	43
April	5.1	26.1	7.3	18.2	6.2	58	4	38
May	6.8	30.4	9.3	20.0	9.3	56	10	34
June	9.3	30.2	13.7	15.8	12.5	68	7	25
July	9.4	33.4	16.7	16.3	18.7	66	16	18
August	12.3	41.2	20.1	20.7	30.1	69	22	9
September	14.3	47.3	24.4	22.5	38.3	72	21	7
October	14.3	58.2	34.2	21.2	38.6	76	19	5
November	9.7	36.7	19.4	16.9	33.9	70	24	6
December	7.2	22.0	10.2	11.4	13.5	65	20	15
Total or average 12 mo.	100.0	392.1	178.2	205.6	18.3	65	13	22

1/ Latest 12 month period for which this series is available.

The estimates of seasonal marketings of farm chickens are no longer available on a current basis. Through 1950, an estimate was made of farmers' monthly sales of chickens, as a percentage of the total annual sales. While this report is no longer kept current, the changes in its most recent years were so slight as to suggest that the monthly proportions which it indicates remain valid. (See table 12.)

Supplementing this former report, until May 1952 there was a weekly report of poultry receipts at midwestern receiving plants. This report separated young and old chickens, and reported in terms of average weekly receipts per plant, covering 200-odd plants. These figures likewise were so unchanging and so consistent in their indications of seasonality that they too continue to be indicative of present conditions. Table 12 includes a summary of the most recent data available from that source.

While the report of midwestern plant receipts of poultry has been discontinued for the region as a whole, the report is still issued for the State of Iowa. Table 12 summarizes the recent experience there.

For turkeys, the estimates of farmers' monthly sales, expressed as a percent of the total annual marketings (excluding breeders) from each year's crop, have been reported both as farmers' intentions (August) and as accomplished marketings (March). These estimates, covering the months in which the bulk of turkey slaughter occurs, are otherwise comparable to the discontinued report on farmers' sales of chickens. (See table 13.)

Table 13.- Turkey marketings: Proportion of crop (exclusive of breeders) marketed in specified months, United States, 1940 to date

Year	Before Aug. 1	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. or later
1940	(	1/8.8		)	42.1	36.9	12.2
1941	(	8.5		)	39.8	38.9	12.8
1942	(	11.8		)	41.1	36.3	10.8
1943	(	10.1		)	41.1	35.2	13.6
1944	(	16.6		)	38.7	30.9	13.8
1945	(	19.6		)	36.4	30.0	14.0
1946	(	22.3		)	36.7	28.4	12.6
1947	(	19.8		)	40.5	32.1	7.6
1948	(	19.5		)	40.1	31.2	9.2
1949	(	23.3		)	38.3	28.5	9.9
1950	(	23.3		)	39.0	29.2	8.5
1951	(	36.1		)	33.8	22.7	7.4
1952	8.9	6.9	11.1	15.5	30.5	21.2	5.9
1953 2/	9.0	6.6	13.6	15.6	30.2	20.2	4.8
N. Atl.	5.8	3.5	5.6	8.2	38.0	30.8	8.1
E. N. Cent.	3.6	4.8	10.0	16.1	37.8	23.1	4.6
W. N. Cent.	10.3	8.2	13.1	21.1	27.0	17.1	3.2
S. Atl.	16.9	10.4	14.4	12.5	26.7	16.7	2.4
S. Cent.	3.2	2.3	24.4	12.5	28.4	24.2	5.0
West.	8.0	6.1	13.5	16.9	29.9	19.1	6.5

1/ For 1940 through 1951, these entries are "before November 1." 2/ Intentions.

Partially to replace the discontinued series on weekly midwestern plant receipts of poultry and the estimates of monthly sales of chickens by farmers, the AMS began a new report of poultry slaughter in January. This report, which may eventually cover the activities of up to 750 of the largest slaughterers, will ultimately accumulate a history which will provide a basis for making comparisons, and will permit inferences about seasonal and secular changes in the rate of poultry slaughter. The respective classes of poultry are itemized on this report.

New Bases for Parity Prices

In January, the"modernized" parity price for eggs replaced the "transitional" parity price. This was done according to a procedure specified in the Agricultural Act of 1948, as amended by the Agricultural Act of 1949.

The base period prices for modernized parity for eggs, chickens, and turkeys are shown in table 14. At the time the Acts became effective (1950) the modernized parity prices for chickens and turkeys were higher than parity computed on the old (1910-14 base) basis, so the modernized parities immediately became the effective parity prices. For eggs, however, the shift to the new parity would have meant an abrupt decline of about 13 percent in the parity price. Under the Act, whenever the modernized parity price was below the old parity price, the latter would be reduced 5 percentage points each year until it was brought down to the level of the modernized parity. For eggs, this occurred in January 1954.

As is indicated by table 14 and its footnotes, the base price for the computation of modernized parity is the average price of a commodity over the past 10 years, divided by the average of the index of prices received by farmers over the same period. For 1954 parities, the base period is 1944-53; for 1955, it will be 1945-54. As years are dropped out of the period comprising the 10-year average, and more recent years added, it will be noted that the years being omitted had higher values than the more recent years have had.

For example, in the years next to be dropped out of the 10-year average (i.e., the years 1944 and 1945, which will fall out when 1954 and 1955 enter the 10-year average), the poultry prices, after adjustment by the index of prices received, were considerably higher than either the 10-year average of which they were a part, or than the current level of poultry prices adjusted by the index of prices received. This means that, if poultry prices continue at their present level compared with prices for other agricultural commodities, the parity bases for chickens and turkeys will gradually decline further. For eggs, the base price is not likely to decline greatly when the 1954 price is included in the 10-year average.

Table 14.- Prices received by farmers for eggs, chickens, and turkeys, relative to the general level of prices received by farmers, 1940 to date, and example of derivation of adjusted base prices for parity computation

Year	Prices received by farmers for all commodities 1/ (1910-14=100)	Average prices received by farmers for poultry products			Average prices received by farmers for poultry products, divided by index of prices received for all commodities 2/		
		Eggs, per dozen	All chickens, per pound	Turkeys, per pound	Eggs, per dozen	All chickens, per pound	Turkeys, per pound
	Percent	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
				A. Annual averages			
1940	100	19.1	14.0	14.0	19.1	14.0	14.0
1941	124	25.0	16.3	16.8	20.2	13.1	13.5
1942	159	31.4	19.7	21.6	19.7	12.4	13.6
1943	193	38.7	25.3	29.6	20.1	13.1	15.3
1944	197	33.8	25.2	31.6	17.2	12.8	16.0
1945	207	39.0	27.1	33.3	18.8	13.1	16.1
1946	236	39.2	28.3	33.2	16.6	12.0	14.1
1947	276	46.4	28.2	31.9	16.8	10.2	11.6
1948	287	48.0	32.4	41.0	16.7	11.3	14.3
1949	250	45.4	27.2	38.0	18.2	10.9	15.2
1950	258	36.9	24.8	31.5	14.3	9.6	12.2
1951	302	47.9	27.3	35.9	15.9	9.0	11.9
1952	288	41.9	26.4	33.8	14.5	9.2	11.7
1953	258	47.5	25.4	33.1	18.4	9.8	12.8
				B. 120-month averages			
1940-49	203	36.6	24.4	29.1	18.0	12.0	14.3
1941-50	219	38.4	25.4	30.8	17.5	11.6	14.1
1942-51	236	40.7	26.6	32.8	17.2	11.3	13.9
1943-52	249	41.7	27.2	34.0	16.7	10.9	13.7
1944-53	256	42.6	27.2	34.3	16.6	10.6	13.4

1/ Including allowance for wartime subsidy payments.

2/ The 10-year averages appearing in these 3 columns correspond to the base prices for the computation of "modernized" parity for the year after the last year included in the respective averages. "Modernized" parity is the base price multiplied by the parity index. For eggs, "modernized" parity was not yet applicable in January 1953; the effective parity price then was the transitional one.

Table 15.- Distribution of egg production and population, by regions, 1953 compared with 1947-49

(Including data for cover chart)

Item	Unit	Region 1/ N. Eng.	Mid. Atl.	E. N. Cent.	W. N. Cent.	S. Atl.	E. S. Cent.	W. S. Cent.	Mount.	Pacific	U. S. total or av.
						1953					
Egg production on farms	Mil.doz.	260	747	1,048	1,363	452	309	406	139	418	5,142
Population, July 1 2/	Thous.	9,695	31,123	32,157	14,302	22,534	11,449	15,279	5,600	16,236	158,375
Egg production on farms, per person 3/	Eggs	321	288	391	1,144	241	325	319	296	309	390
Total regional excess (+) or deficiency (-) of egg production to population, compared with U. S. average	Mil.doz.	-56	-265	+3	+899	-280	-62	-90	-44	-110	
						1947-49 av.					
Egg production on farms	Mil.doz.	207	548	956	1,340	396	297	415	135	329	4,623
Population, July 1 2/	Thous.	9,217	29,508	29,770	13,634	20,297	11,089	14,093	4,730	13,731	146,063
Egg production on farms, per person	Eggs	269	223	385	1,179	234	321	353	342	287	380
Total regional excess (+) or deficiency (-) of egg production to population, compared with U. S. average	Mil.doz.	-85	-386	+12	+908	-247	-55	-32	-15	-106	

1/ For the location of States among regions, see cover chart.

2/ Total population July 1, excluding Armed Forces overseas. On account of rounding, regional figures may not add to U. S. total.

3/ Including hatching eggs and other nonfood requirements, and ignoring nonfarm production.

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